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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 535
By Chumney

A RESOLUTION To honor and congratulate Patricia A. Garrett on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have given wholeheartedly of themselves in the service of our young people, dedicating their lives and careers to the education of the children of this State; and

WHEREAS, Patricia A. Garrett is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, After thirty-five years of service in the Memphis School System, Mrs. Garrett is retiring; she has served with distinction as teacher, an assistant principal, and a principal; and

WHEREAS, Born in Memphis to Arthur Lee Payne and Jessie Mae Crutcher Payne, she attended elementary school in Memphis, Tennessee and graduated from Mitchell High School; and

WHEREAS, A distinguished scholar, Patricia Garrett received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Humanities from LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis and a Master of Arts Degree in

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English from Memphis State University; she also earned a Master of Education degree with a concentration in Administration and Supervision from Memphis State University; and

WHEREAS, Patricia A. Garrett has meritoriously served as the Principal of Lester Demonstration School since its opening in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Under Mrs. Garrett's leadership, Lester has served as a Demonstration School and has piloted such innovative programs as Apple Classrooms of Tomorrow, Writing To Read, Careers on Wheels, and WATSCH Computer Learning Systems; Lester Demonstration School is also an Optional School, featuring specialists in the areas of Art, Music, Physical Education, Science and Technology; and

WHEREAS, Believing that "all students are gifted," she has sought to help inner-city children move beyond their present circumstances by providing them with the positive attitude and the social and academic skills necessary to successfully pursue their dreams; and

WHEREAS, A visionary leader at Lester Demonstration School, Patricia Garrett developed and implemented a thematic character education program that fosters self-reliance, conflict resolution skills, cultural diversity, civil rights, the ability to deal with dilemmas, and upward mobility; through her support of such programs as Charms, Pride, and the Annual Academy Awards, students and teachers have been recognized for their excellence; and

WHEREAS, Patricia A. Garrett has been instrumental in Lester Demonstration School's participation in the regional Spelling and Geography Bees, Africa in April, Memphis in May, D.A.R.E., 4-H, Adopt-A-School, and Jump Rope for Heart; and

WHEREAS, As a result of Mrs. Garrett's emphasis on community involvement, Lester Demonstration School's students and faculty have collected canned goods for Kids Kan and Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets for the needy, distributed Cancer Awareness brochures, caroled at neighborhood nursing homes, provided student volunteers for MFA, and sponsored community cleanup and recycling campaigns; the School has also raised funds for the United Way, Red Cross, and the World War II Memorial; and

WHEREAS, A talented and hardworking principal, she has tirelessly led her school to unparalleled levels of excellence; Lester Demonstration School has received numerous awards, including recognition for its participation in the Memphis-Shelby County Science Fair, All-City Choir, the Memphis Park Commission Sports Program, City Beautiful, and the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Poster Contest; the school also holds the distinction of having the work of its students published for three consecutive years in the Tennessee Anthology of Student Writers; and

WHEREAS, All her accomplishments aside, Patricia Garrett is most blessed by the love and companionship of her husband, Lawrence William Garrett, Sr. and their two children, Lawrence William Garrett, Jr. and Lanetria Wynette Garrett; and

WHEREAS, Although Patricia A. Garrett is retiring, her imprint on Memphis City Schools, her students, and her faculty will remain; she leaves behind an indelible legacy of leadership, wisdom, and love; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Garrett truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated principal who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Patricia A. Garrett for her meritorious service as Principal of the Lester Demonstration School, commend her commitment to excellence in education, salute her exemplary career in education, and express our gratitude for her thirty-five years of exceptional service to the young people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to Patricia Garrett our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.